

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A nail clipping assembly including a pair of nail clippers for clipping a fingernail and toe nail, said nail clippers having an upper arm and a lower arm, each arm having a blade end and a joined end and said upper and lower arms being joined at their joined ends and said upper arm having an upper blade at its blade end and said lower arm having a lower blade at its blade end, said upper and lower blades being aligned to meet to form a cutting line and an operating lever held to said pair of nail clippers so that the depression of said operating lever causes said upper blade to move downwardly and meet said lower blade to create a cutting action wherein the improvement comprises:

a light source held near said upper and lower blades and positioned below said lower blade, said light source emitting a beam of light, so that when a finger is moved so that an extending nail portion at a distal end of the finger moves between said upper blade and said lower blade, said beam of light will illuminate at least that portion of the interior of said finger under its nail so that an intersection between the extending portion of the nail and the finger is clearly visible;

~~a hand-graspable holder~~ handle supporting said pair of nail clippers, said ~~graspable holder~~ handle having a forward portion 30a housing said light source, a hand graspable portion 30 behind the forward portion and extending substantially rearwardly past said joined end to facilitate the holding and operating of said pair of nail clippers the hand graspable portion large enough to provide a rest for a user's fingers on one

21 side and palm on the other side, and a transition portion 41 between the forward
22 portion and the hand graspable portion, the forward portion smaller in cross-section
23 than the hand graspable portion, and the forward portion and transition portion
24 providing a rest for the user's index finger proximal to and behind the blades; and
25 means for energizing said light source whereby a fingernail may be safely
26 clipped as a result of the illumination of the intersection between the nail and the finger.

2. (Canceled)

1 3. (Currently amended) The nail clipping assembly of claim 1 wherein ~~said pair of~~
2 ~~nail clippers is held in a holder, said holder having~~ includes a recess for holding
3 said pair of nail clippers so that the upper and lower blades thereof may be
4 moved adjacent the end of a subject's finger end and over a subject's extending
5 nail and ~~said holder having a hand graspable handle and a cutting end and said~~
6 ~~holder further supporting said light source at its cutting end and~~ said holder
7 having a receptacle for holding said means for energizing said light source and
8 said light source being positioned within said receptacle in sufficient proximity to
9 the subject's finger to illuminate the interior of the finger at an area where the
10 subject's nail extends outwardly from the subject's finger.

4. (Previously presented) The nail clipping assembly of claim 3 wherein said recess for holding said pair of nail clippers is located along the top edge of the holder.

1 5. (Previously presented) The nail clipping assembly of claim 3 wherein said light
2 source comprises a bulb with an outer tip and said bulb is positioned within the
3 holder so that its tip is within at least about one-eighth of an inch from a finger tip
4 portion of the subject's finger when the subject's finger is located so that the
5 fingernail is between the upper and lower blades.

6. (Previously presented) The nail clipping assembly of claim 5 wherein said tip is aimed below the cutting end of said holder.

7. (Original) The nail clipping assembly of claim 1 wherein said light source is an incandescent bulb.

1 8. (Original) A nail clipping assembly including a pair of nail clippers for
2 clipping a finger or toe nail, said nail clippers having an upper arm and a
3 lower arm, each arm having a blade end and a joined end and said upper
4 and lower arms being joined at their joined ends and said upper arm
5 having an upper blade at its blade end and said lower arm having a lower
6 blade at its blade end, said upper and lower blades being aligned to meet

7 to form a cutting line and an operating lever held to said pair of nail
8 clippers so that the depression of said operating lever causes said upper
9 blade to move downwardly and meet said lower blade to create a cutting
10 action wherein the improvement comprises:

11 a holder having a hand graspable portion, a top portion including a
12 nail clipper holding area, a bottom, a back and a cutting end, said holder
13 supporting a light source at its cutting end and said holder having a pair
14 of fingernail guides extending forwardly with respect to said cutting line
15 and positioned so that a bottom edge of each fingernail guide is
16 horizontally aligned between a lowermost portion of said upper blade and
17 an uppermost portion of the lower blade when said nail clippers are
18 oriented horizontally whereby a subject's fingernail is guided into a space
19 between said upper and lower blades.

- 1 9. (Previously presented) The nail clipping assembly of claim 8 wherein said
2 fingernail guides are horizontally spaced to expose a majority of the subject's
3 fingernail at a line where the fingernail extends outwardly from the subject's
4 finger when the finger is in a cutting position with the finger located in the space
5 between said upper and lower blades.

10. (Previously presented) The nail clipping assembly of claim 8 wherein said nail clipper holding area is a recess which extends upwardly from a floor to cover sides of said nail clipper.

1 11. (Previously presented) An ergonomic handle for supporting a nail clipper
2 having an upper arm and a lower arm, each arm having a blade end and
3 a joined end and said upper and lower arms being joined at their joined
4 ends and said upper arm having an upper blade at its blade end and said
5 lower arm having a lower blade at its blade end, said upper and lower
6 blades being aligned to meet to form a cutting line and an operating lever
7 held to said pair of nail clippers so that ~~the~~ a depression of said operating
8 lever causes said upper blade to move downwardly and meet said lower
9 blade to create a cutting action, said handle comprising:

10 a hand graspable handle of sufficient girth and length to permit a
11 user's hand to surround the graspable handle so that the user's palm is
12 on a first side of the handle and a users's fingers grasp the opposite side
13 and the user's thumb extends over a top edge of the hand graspable
14 handle;

15 a nail clipper recess formed in said top edge and said nail clipper
16 recess being shaped to surround sides of a pair of nail clippers, and
17 having a bottom upon which a pair of nail clippers can rest and a back
18 end portion to prevent the rearward movement of the pair of nail clippers

19 with respect to said handle and the nail clipper recess having an open
20 front end to permit a user to insert a fingernail in a clipping portion of said
21 pair of nail clippers whereby a pair of nail clippers can be easily
22 supported by a user's hand during a nail clipping operation; and
23 wherein said hand graspable handle has a pair of opposed
24 fingernail guides extending inwardly at said open front end and positioned
25 so that when a pair of nail clippers is inserted in said nail clipper recess
26 the opposed fingernail guides extend beyond a front edge of said pair of
27 nail clippers and a bottom edge of each of said opposed fingernail guides
28 is horizontally aligned between a lowermost portion of said upper blade
29 and an uppermost portion of said lower blade of said pair of nail clippers.

12. (Canceled)
13. (Original) The ergonomic handle of claim 11 wherein said nail clipper recess has an upwardly extending tab for passing through a hole in a rear end of said pair of nail clippers.
14. (Original) The ergonomic handle of claim 11 wherein said hand graspable handle curves upwardly toward its front end.
15. (New) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the forward portion is rounded.

16. (New) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the transition portion is rounded.

17. (New) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the transition portion slopes upwardly and forwardly from the hand graspable portion to the forward portion.

18. (New) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the transition portion provides a smooth transition from the forward portion to the hand graspable portion.

19. (New) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the hand graspable portion is rounded.

20 (New) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the energizing means comprises at least one battery residing in the hand graspable portion.

21. (New) A method for cutting a child's fingernails using finger nail clippers, the method comprising:

turning on a light residing in a forward portion of a handle, the handle supporting said finger nail clippers;

holding a hand graspable portion of the handle between a care giver's fingers and palm;

resting an index finger proximal to and behind blades of the finger nail clippers, on a rest provided by cooperation of the forward portion and a transition portion, the

- 9 forward portion having a smaller cross-section than the hand graspable portion and the
- 10 transition portion residing between the forward portion and the hand graspable portion;
- 11 positioning blades of the fingernail clippers to cut a finger nail;
- 12 illuminating an interior of a finger under the finger nail; and
- 13 depressing a operating lever to cut the finger nail.